

Director of Central Intelligence

Executive for Inspection and Security

Higher Classification of CIA Exploitation of Soviet Russian Language Material.

1. The enclosures raise the following problem of policy:

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2. Recent policy actions bearing on the above recommendation have been taken as follows:

a. The Deputy Director has orally directed the AD/OS to raise the classification of FEB Soviet Press Extracts from CONFIDENTIAL to SECRET.

b. The Executive Director in a memorandum to AD/OS dated 2 December 1948 approved the reclassification of the Facts and Figures Section of the [redacted] from RESTRICTED to CONFIDENTIAL.

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3. There remain the following matters to be considered:

a. Raising the classification of the following VDB publications:

Bibliography of Russian Periodicals - - now UNCLASSIFIED.  
Periodical Abstracts (General Series) - - now RESTRICTED.  
Periodical Abstracts (Scientific Series) - - now RESTRICTED.  
Translation & Information Reports - - now RESTRICTED.

b. Whether the recommendation [redacted] be extended to include FEB publications derived from overt sources in satellite countries.

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c. Comments are made in the attached papers regarding possible complaints arising because of distribution restrictions caused by ungrading of FEB material. To be balanced against this possible adverse

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-2-

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5. Attached are statements from State, Army and Air Force saying that for use within their Departments they would have no objections to raising the classifications of MDB material to SECRET. State makes the point that if the increased classification resulted in a diminishing of information to non-IAC agencies it might have to resort to its own dissemination arrangements in order to fulfill its responsibility. It is not believed that State would have to resort to this action as long as CIA continues to furnish the Library of Congress with microfilm copies of Soviet periodicals and newspapers, and as long as the Library of Congress continues to publish the List of Russian Accessions which is available for governmental and public use.

6. The Bibliography of Russian Periodicals contains only blanket listings in English of the table of contents of various Russian periodicals; it does not reveal intelligence requirements. While the bibliography is derived from all overtly procured Russian periodicals, yet, as presently published and disseminated, there is no indication that it was originated by CIA. If the bibliography were classified, the Library of Congress would continue to publish in its List of Russian Accessions a similar product in unclassified transliterated Russian. It is believed, therefore, that security would not be improved by classifying the bibliography.

7. OO believes that security and operating efficiency can be improved if Periodical Abstracts (General Series) were discontinued and replaced by individual extracts. Almost as much time is now taken up in preparing abstracts as is consumed in complying with ensuing requests for complete extracts. Time and work would be saved and security improved if extracts were prepared in the first place, and their dissemination directed to primarily interested addressees.

8. The Assistant Directors OO, OOD and ORE have concurred in the following recommended actions:

a. The Bibliography of Russian Periodicals remain UNCLASSIFIED.

b. Periodical Abstracts (General Series) be discontinued and replaced by the issuance of separate extracts classified individually according to source and subject matter, with CONFIDENTIAL as a minimum.

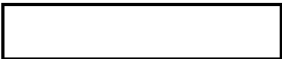
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c. Periodical Abstracts (Scientific Series) be upgraded to SECRET.

d. Translation and Information Reports be classified individually according to source and subject matter, with CONFIDENTIAL as a minimum.

e. AD be directed to: (1) Survey the problem of procurement of satellite publications from the point of view of security of source; (2) Classify information extracted from such sources in accordance with the results of the survey.

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Acting Executive for I. & S.

cc to:

Assistant Director, AD ✓  
Assistant Director, DOD  
Assistant Director, OMB

Enclosures:

Memo. 5 Nov. 1948 from AD/DO  
to DCI, through AD/OMB and  
Exec. for I. & S.  
Memo. 15 Nov. 1948 from Ch.,  
A & D Div., State Dept.  
Memo. 13 Dec. 1948 from  
Chief, IG, Dept. Army, to  
AD/OMB  
Memo. 22 Dec. 1948 from  
CS, Air Force to DCI

